

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MISSOURI DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL



MISSION

The Division of Fire Safety provides proactive statutory enforcement, regulatory oversight and education to protect all lives and property from the devastation of fires, explosions and life safety perils.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL
RANDY L. COLE



ASSISTANT STATE FIRE MARSHAL
GREG CARRELL

FISCAL ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER
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LAW ENFORCEMENT MANAGER
FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT
WILLIAM ZIERES

PUBLIC SAFETY MANAGER
ELEVATOR INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION
AMUSEMENT RIDE SAFETY
LAWRENCE WATSON

PUBLIC SAFETY MANAGER
TRAINING & CERTIFICATION UNIT
KIMBERLY J. BECKER

PUBLIC SAFETY MANAGER
BOILER & PRESSURE VESSEL SAFETY UNIT
GARY SCRIBNER

VISION

THE DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY WILL BE RECOGNIZED AS THE
PREMIER PROVIDER FOR LIFE AND FIRE PROTECTION
CREATING A SAFER ENVIRONMENT FOR THE CITIZENS AND VISITORS
OF MISSOURI BY MINIMIZING THE THREAT OF DEATH, INJURY AND
PROPERTY LOSS.

VALUES

RESPONSIBILITY

WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO THOSE WE SERVE.

INTEGRITY

WE ADHERE TO A STRICT ETHICAL CODE.

PROFESSIONALISM

WE HAVE A CONSCIENTIOUS AWARENESS OF OUR ROLE, IMAGE,
SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE.

FAIRNESS

WE WILL SERVE ALL IN A COURTEOUS, DIGNIFIED AND RESPECTFUL
MANNER.

DEDICATION

WE ARE COMMITTED TO FULFILLING THE MANDATES SET FORTH
FOR THE DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY WITH EXCELLENCE.

The Office of the Missouri State Fire Marshal was created in 1972 by the 76th General Assembly and was transferred to the Department of Public Safety by the Omnibus State Reorganization Act of 1974. The State Fire Marshal's Office became known as the Missouri Division of Fire Safety in 1985.

Responsibilities of the Division include:

Fire Safety Inspections - Providing fire safety standards by inspecting facilities licensed by the Department of Health, Department of Mental Health and Division of Family Services;

Fire Investigations - Investigating fires and explosions;

Fireworks Licensing - Regulating the sale and use of fireworks and licensure of operators responsible for pyrotechnic displays;

Fire Fighter Training and Certification - Providing in-depth training and certification for emergency response personnel in areas including hazardous materials awareness and operations, certification of firefighters, fire investigation, fire inspection, fire officers, fire instructors and driver operators;

National Fire Incident Reporting - Operation of the state-wide fire incident reporting system;

Boiler & Pressure Vessel Inspections - Inspection and issuance of operating permits for boilers and pressure vessels;

Elevator Safety - Inspection and issuance of state operating certificates for elevators and escalators;

Amusement Ride Safety - Inspection and issuance of operating permits for amusement rides operating in the state;

Private Fire Investigator Licensing - Evaluation and issuance of practicing licenses for private fire investigators doing business in the State of Missouri;

Fire Mutual Aid System - The Division coordinates activation and deployment of resources when regional assistance is requested.

FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

Fire safety and prevention are the primary concerns of the Fire Safety Inspection Unit. The Division has a well established unit comprised of two regional chief inspectors and eleven inspectors who are strategically positioned statewide. The unit is statutorily responsible for conducting fire safety inspections of facilities and locations requiring state licensing by various state agencies to include Department of Health, Department of Mental Health, and Division of Family Services. The inspections involve licensed and religious child care, senior citizen nutrition centers, state operated mental health homes and facilities.

The unit also conducts courtesy inspections of public buildings to include county jails and public schools when requested. Each year the unit conducts approximately 12,500 fire safety inspections.



Each Division fire inspector is required to be state certified and to maintain state certification during their tenure as a fire safety inspector. In addition, each inspector is encouraged to attend cost-free fire inspector/inspection related

courses through the National Fire Academy in Maryland.

Vital fire prevention education and training programs are provided by Division fire safety inspectors through various avenues targeting children and the general public. These programs are designed to reduce or eliminate burn related injuries and fatalities. Teaching positive fire safety behaviors to children during their formative years is critical.

Additional duties of state fire inspectors include inspection of fireworks venues. With the addition of the Division's responsibility relating to the amusement ride industry in 2000, fire inspectors are also utilized to verify that amusement rides operating in Missouri are in compliance with the issuance of state operating permits. Approximately 250 state operating permit verifications are made annually by the unit with this number expected to increase as the Amusement Ride program progresses.

FIRE INVESTIGATION



The Investigation Unit provides fire and explosive related investigative services to Missouri's fire services and law enforcement agencies. Sixteen field Fire Investigators and two supervisors are located strategically throughout the state and are on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Under

RSMo. 320.230, the State Fire Marshal and his appointed investigators are responsible for investigating incidents involving the possibility of arson, explosion, or related offenses as requested by the fire service, law enforcement and prosecuting attorneys within the state. Division Investigators process an average of 1,300 scenes annually.

Investigators with the Division of Fire Safety have an excess of 750 hours of training including POST certification, Division of Fire Safety State Fire Investigator Certification, National Fire Academy training and various Federal Law Enforcement Academy training. Investigators are trained in several fields of expertise to include insurance fraud, explosive recognition, weapons of mass destruction, and post-blast investigations. Investigators also have advanced training in clandestine drug lab investigations.

Fire Investigators have the power of arrest for criminal offenses, when investigating the cause, origin or circumstances of fires, explosions, or like occurrences involving the possibility of arson or related offenses. Investigators also have arrest powers when aiding and assisting the Sheriff of any county or the Chief of Police of any municipality or their designated representative at their request. Additionally, Investigators are assigned special details when activated for Homeland Security or Statewide Mutual Aid occurrences.

The Investigation Unit has five certified Computer Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA) operators who also assist federal, state, local government when requested. The program also utilizes two explosive-detection K-9 teams. These teams provide assistance to local and state authorities in incidents involving suspected explosive devices or threats.

FIREWORKS ENFORCEMENT

The Division of Fire Safety, Investigation Unit, is charged with enforcing RSMo 320.106, the investigation and permitting of the fireworks industry in the State of Missouri. This statute requires prospective fireworks vendors and persons requesting special fireworks displays to apply to the Division of Fire Safety for an annual permit to do business in Missouri. The scope of this program was broadened during the 2004 legislative session by the passage of SB1196. This bill adds to the Division's duties the testing and licensing of those individuals who shoot fireworks for public display. Additionally, proximate (indoor) fireworks shows, such as those used in theaters, ballgames, and concerts, previously exempt from the law and therefore left unregulated, are now regulated due to this bill. The program will generate an average of \$130,000 annually which will be deposited to the credit of the Fire Education Fund.

The Division is responsible for the inspection of Missouri's fireworks industry to ensure adequate fire safety measures are in place to protect the public as they patronize locations where fireworks are offered for sale. Investigators and Inspectors are trained in the identification of illegal fireworks and explosives as well as the proper handling procedures. Each fireworks season approximately 500 inspections related to the wholesale and retail sales of fireworks and inspections of locations where pyrotechnic displays for public view are conducted.

PRIVATE FIRE INVESTIGATOR LICENSURE

In the 2004 legislative session, House Bill 1195 was passed creating the Licensed Private Fire Investigator program. This program will provide for better oversight of individuals performing fire investigations for a fee in the State of Missouri. This legislation will authorize the Division, and the new Board of Licensed Private Fire Investigators, to license only qualified individuals. It also allows for the ongoing monitoring of their performance to ensure ethical work practices, the investigation of any violations that may arise from their practice, and the implementation of any necessary measures against these individuals or organizations.

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

Missouri Revised Statute 320.202 mandates the Division as the state-wide agency “responsible for the certification and training of fire fighters, investigators, and any other state employees performing fire inspections”.



The Training and Certification Unit provides quality training and internationally accredited certification to firefighters, law enforcement personnel, emergency response professionals and other state agencies. The training unit is also responsible for the Fire Fighter Training Contracts, National Fire Incident Reporting System, the State Fire Mutual Aid System, and Fire Department Registration.

When appropriated, the Division provides funding for cost-free training for all of the state’s fire fighters and emergency response personnel.

In April 1996, The Division of Fire Safety obtained international accreditation for several training and certification programs through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress. This allows Missouri fire fighters to be recognized worldwide for their training. Because accreditation is contingent upon compliance with the standards set forth by the National Fire Protection Administration (NFPA), and because the standards are on a five year revision cycle, the Division’s training and certification programs must be continually reviewed and revised for currency.

The Division currently offers 15 levels of certification and numerous training programs and has issued over 49,000 certifications since the program’s implementation in 1986.

In addition, the Division is an approved provider of law enforcement training as recognized by the Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission (POST). This status allows law enforcement officers to receive continuing education credits when attending training provided by the Division of Fire Safety.

NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM

The Division of Fire Safety implemented the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) in the October 1999. The NFIRS objectives are clear; *Provide a reporting tool for all fire departments to use so that we may evaluate the Nation's fire problem.*

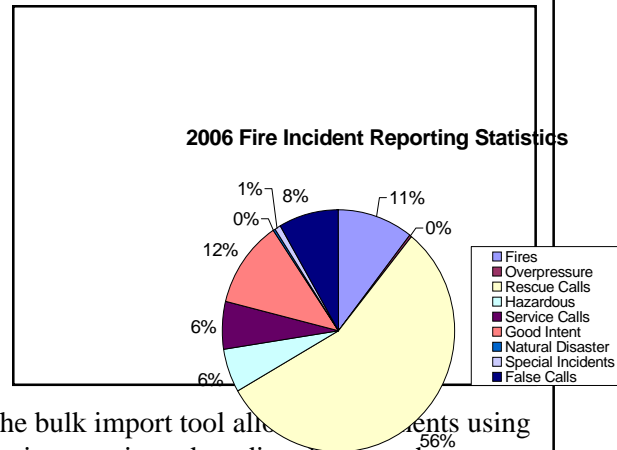
Since it's adoption in the state of Missouri, this voluntary program has grown to an 81% participation rate with 733 fire departments registered in the program. In 2004, 296,452 incidents were reported. In 2005, 284,090 incidents were reported. As of December 15, 2006, 232,841 incidents have been reported.

The U.S. Fire Administration is continually enhancing the NFIRS system to make it more useful. The web-based summary output reporting tool and the bulk import tools have each seen

many new upgrades. The bulk import tool allows departments using vendor software to submit or retrieve data directly from the server, which is highly recommended by the Division.

Numerous reports can be generated from the information collected. Outside agencies often request statistics for various reasons including media requests or grant applications.

Fire departments who are not currently participating in NFIRS are encouraged to become active in the program, in order to project an accurate profile of the fire problem and emergency responses in the State of Missouri.



BOILER & PRESSURE VESSEL INSPECTION AND SAFETY



The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Unit is responsible for assuring the safety of boilers, water heaters and pressure vessels in Missouri. On November 12, 1986, the Boiler Law went into effect. Today the unit consists of a chief inspector, five field inspectors and one office support assistant.

The state statute (RSMo 650.200 through 650.295) known as “The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Act”, requires boilers and pressure vessels be inspected internally and externally, with high pressure boilers being inspected on an annual basis and all other boilers and pressure vessels on a biannual basis. These inspections are made to ensure the vessels are in good operating condition and all required safety features are in place and operable. All items are inspected to internationally recognized standards and receive the required operating certificate upon completion of a satisfactory inspection.

Boilers and pressure vessels located in private residences, apartment buildings of five units and less, hobby boilers, water heaters less than 120 gallons and 200,000 btu/hr input or less are exempt from the statute. Pressure vessel inspection requirements depend on whether they are in a place of public or non-public assembly, vessel size and pressure rating.

Inspections are only performed by commissioned state inspectors and inspectors employed by companies licensed to and insuring those items they inspect. In all cases, operating permits are issued by the Division.

In fiscal year 2006 a total of 18,954 inspections were performed with state inspectors performing 21% of these inspections. During these inspections a total of 1,160 code and safety violations

were found. Most violations were due to improper installation and maintenance or lack of maintenance. With the most serious violations being safety devices not installed, improperly installed, disabled or inoperable. In all cases, follow-up is performed to ensure these issues are corrected.

Rules and regulations are formulated by the Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Rules whose members are appointed by the Governor. The members of this board hold specific expertise in the construction, maintenance, inspection and repair of boilers and pressure vessels. The board has recently formulated rules requiring installation permits be issued to ensure the proper installation of boilers and pressure vessels within the state. These rules become effective December 30, 2007.

FIRE MUTUAL AID SYSTEM

In 1990, the Missouri General Assembly enacted HB 1395-1448 which provided the support for establishing a statewide mutual aid system for major emergencies or disasters. This legislation was key to the subsequent fire mutual aid system as it exists today. The Division of Fire Safety coordinates activation and deployment of resources when regional mutual aid assistance is requested.

Initially, a representative cross-section of the fire service contributed to the organization of the system. With continued input and support from all fire service throughout the state, the system stands ready to mitigate the effects of small or large scale emergencies.

The state is divided into nine geographical regions with each region having a designated mutual aid coordinator. When an incident occurs within a region and all local resources become exhausted, the coordinator contacts the Division of Fire Safety to request mutual aid assistance of specific resources. The Division in turn contacts mutual aid coordinators within other regions to locate and deploy the needed resources.

ELEVATOR INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION

During Missouri's 1994 legislative session, the General Assembly passed the Elevator Safety Act relating to elevators and elevator equipment safety. Enforcement of the legislation was placed under the jurisdiction of the Division of Fire Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal. Promulgated rules and regulations became effective July 1, 1999, designed to assist in administering the law. Fees generated from the inspection and testing requirements are deposited in the Elevator Safety Fund to support the program's operation.



The law requires all elevators and elevator equipment in the state to be inspected annually and to obtain a state-operating permit. Provisions in the law include requirements for elevator and elevator equipment owners to have registered such objects with the Division of Fire Safety by July 1, 2000. In addition, provisions in the law prohibit elevator inspectors from

conducting inspections without being state licensed and possessing QEI (Qualified Elevator Inspector) certification. Municipal or political subdivision inspectors must be state licensed and possess QEI or BOCA (Building Officials Code Administrators) certification. Required inspection and testing of elevators and elevator equipment are based upon ASME A17.1, Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators, 1996 edition. Persons violating provisions of the Elevator Safety Act are guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.

Political subdivisions may continue enforcing their local elevator safety code if such code is equal to or more stringent than the state minimum safety standards.

The Elevator Safety Unit's database reflects over 18,000 registered elevators and state operating permits issued for nearly 15,000 units. This program generated \$512,000 in revenues in fiscal year 2006.

AMUSEMENT RIDE SAFETY

In 1997, HB 276 passed creating laws pertaining to amusement ride safety. This bill authorizes the Division of Fire Safety to promulgate rules and regulations to administer the program. Since 1997, amendments designed to enhance safety measures relating to amusement rides operating in Missouri were incorporated into the law.

Owners of amusement rides operating within the state are required to provide the Division with an annual inspection report verifying that each ride has successfully completed a safety inspection by a “qualified inspector”. Upon receipt of the report, the Division will issue a state operating permit for the ride.

Amusement ride accidents involving a serious injury or fatality are required to be reported “immediately” to the Division. The ride is to cease operation until an investigation initiated by the Division has been conducted.

To assist the Division with the development of safety standards, rules and regulations governing maintenance, testing, operation and inspection of amusement rides, a Governor appointed nine member Amusement Ride Safety Board was established in 2000.

The authority to conduct “spot” safety inspections of any amusement ride operating in Missouri lies within the Division of Fire Safety. Non-compliant life safety issues discovered during a spot inspection will result in a temporary suspension of the ride’s state operating permit. Before the ride is placed back in operation, a reinspection by a Division inspector is required to ensure compliance.

Each year the amusement ride program generates approximately \$30,000. These funds are deposited into the Elevator Safety Fund to offset costs to administer the program.



LOOKING AHEAD.....

YOUTH FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM

Grant funding through the National Association of State Fire Marshals has made it possible for the Division of Fire Safety to develop and implement a much needed Youth Fire Safety Intervention Program. This program targets children who have exhibited fire setting behaviors and trains teams with intervention tactics to help change such behavior. Parents or legal guardians now have an avenue to obtain assistance from a number of trained and qualified individuals within various parts of the state.

ALL-HAZARD INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM

During 2006, the Division of Fire Safety began efforts to re-establish three incident management teams within Missouri. These teams are an invaluable resource when major incidents such as tornado, flood, or widespread power outages occur. A team is deployed to an incident and provides management support to local authorities. Currently two, 40 member teams, located in the central and in east central Missouri, have obtained specialized training and are operational. A third team is planned for west central Missouri in 2007.

DONATED FIRE EQUIPMENT PROGRAM

During the 2001 legislative session SB 197 was passed by the General Assembly. The law provides civil immunity to any fire protection district, volunteer fire protection association or any fire department of any political subdivision which donates equipment used to suppress fire or fire protective clothing to another department if certain conditions are met. This program establishes an avenue for those departments with extremely limited budgets throughout rural Missouri to obtain no-cost used equipment or personal protective gear.

RESCUE TECHNICIAN TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

When disaster strikes anywhere in the United States, the fire service is the primary response for rescue and recovery missions. This responsibility is resulting in a greater demand for specialized hazmat and rescue technician level training courses. The Division is working toward providing internationally accredited certification for these specialized training levels in the near future.


ELEVATOR SAFETY PROGRAM UPGRADE

Beginning in January 2007, an upgrade to the Elevator Safety Unit's database will allow state licensed elevator inspectors to complete and submit their daily inspection reports to the Division electronically via the internet. In addition, this upgrade will allow the inspectors access to the Division's database to review previous inspection reports for a specific location.

ACCELERANT CANINE DETECTION PROGRAM

In 2007, the Division will once again have available two accelerant canine teams. The re-establishment of this program is being made possible by a grant through State Farm Insurance. State Farm Insurance has been very supportive of the Division in providing canine assistance throughout the years. To once again have available such a valuable tool to assist with fire scene investigations will be a true asset to the Division and local jurisdictions.

For more information regarding the status of these programs view the Division website at <http://www.dfs.dps.mo.gov>



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